

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, 23-27 are pending for examination. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 24 is currently amended to correct the informality cited on page 2 of the Office Action. The Examiner's courtesy in pointing out this informality is appreciated, and the Applicant now requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Coughlin, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,810,411; hereafter "Coughlin") in view of Pontoppidan, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0161872; hereafter "Pontoppidan"). Further, Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yanagidate, *et al.*, (U.S. Patent 6,128,664; hereafter "Yanagidate"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and further requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, particularly in view of the current amendments.

More particularly, independent Claims 1, 10, and 18 are currently amended to recite that name query requests are variably transmitted to at least one of plural subnets via an interface linked to the LAN. As described on page 10 of the specification of the present application, transmission of naming requests to subnets may be variably disabled if such transmission is deemed to be, for example, undesirable, unneeded, or not useful. Thus, the independent claims have been amended to reflect such flexibility. The remaining claims, including those dependent upon Claims 1, 10, and 18, as well as Claim 27, have been amended to conform to the amendments described above for the base claim from which they depend.

It is respectfully submitted that none of Coughlin, Pontoppidan, or Yanagidate teach or suggest the variance in transmissions, as in the claimed invention. Therefore, in view of the present amendments and further in view of the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully

submitted that the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references; and it is further requested that the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

The remaining references of record have been studied. It is respectfully submitted that they do not compensate for the deficiencies of the references utilized to reject the pending claims, particularly in view of the current amendments to the claims.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early and forthright issuance of a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

Date: October 21, 2005

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